

But Handgun Control Inc. tells victims not to resist rape or robbery in any way: "The best defense against injury is to put up no defense—give them what they want or run." This anti-gun position, too, is bereft of criminological support. Twenty years of National Institute of Justice data show that victims who resist with guns are less likely to be injured, and much less likely to be raped or robbed, than victims who submit. Indeed, in more than 80 percent of cases where a victim pulls a gun, the criminal turns and flees whether he has a gun or not.

When speaking at universities here and abroad, I am often asked, "Wouldn't it be a better world if there were no guns?"

I am a criminologist, not a theologian. If you want a world without guns and you think there is a God, pray for him to abolish guns. Human laws cannot disarm lawbreakers, but only the law-abiding.

Firearms are the only weaponry with which victims can reliably resist aggressors. In their absence, the ruthless and strong can oppress the weak.

Such oppression in the District is really the crime emergency. And as the District responds, it should take an unbiased look at the social-science data. It should rethink its gun bans now under legal challenge. And after 30 years of failed prohibition, it should now let its law-abiding citizens arm themselves for their own protection.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT FRANCIS McDERMOTT

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to honor a dear friend and dedicated community leader who passed away on August 28, 2006. GEN Robert McDermott leaves behind a legacy of distinguished service to his country and his community, and he will be dearly missed.

GEN Robert Francis McDermott was born on July 31, 1920, in Boston, MA, to Alphonsus and Anna McDermott. He graduated from the Boston Latin School in 1937 and continued his education at Norwich University. He received an appointment to the United States Military Academy in 1940 and was commissioned on January 19, 1943. In 1950, General McDermott earned an MBA degree from Harvard University.

On January 20, 1943, General McDermott married Alice Patricia McDermott at Trinity Chapel at West Point. Their marriage would last 47 years until Alice's death in 1990. Following their wedding, General McDermott was assigned to the 474th Fighter Bomber Group as its deputy group operations officer and flew 61 combat missions in a P-38 during World War II in the European Theatre. After the war, he remained in Europe on General Eisenhower's staff and later served in the Pentagon.

After teaching economics at West Point for 4 years, General McDermott was assigned to the newly established Air Force Academy as vice dean and professor of economics. In 1956, he was appointed Dean of Faculty, and in 1959, President Eisenhower appointed General McDermott the first Permanent Dean of Faculty and promoted him to

brigadier general. At that time, he was the youngest flag-rank officer in all of the armed services. In recognition of General McDermott's contributions and innovations at the Air Force Academy, the Air Force named the cadet library for him and called him the "Father of Modern Military Education." He retired from the Air Force in 1968.

General McDermott joined USAA—United Services Automobile Association—as executive vice president, and became its president in January 1969. Throughout his career, McDermott's philosophy was to nurture the employees and to promote their personal and professional growth treating them and USAA's customers by the Golden Rule. His efforts bore success. In 1993, USAA was ranked No. 1 in "The 100 Best Companies to Work for in America." General McDermott retired as chairman and CEO of USAA in 1993.

On August 6, 1994, General McDermott married Marion Slemmon of Colorado Springs. They enjoyed his retirement in San Antonio and Colorado Springs, but General McDermott did not slow down. He was active in the San Antonio community with business and charitable organizations, enjoyed traveling to visit family and friends, and continued playing golf and his trombone.

As a dedicated and enthusiastic advocate for San Antonio, General McDermott worked tirelessly to advance economic development in the area. In 1974, he was elected chairman of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and promoted San Antonio as a center for domestic and international growth. He also founded the Economic Development Foundation and was a cofounder of United San Antonio. In the 1980s, General McDermott focused on the development of biotechnology in San Antonio to provide the city with a viable economic sector for the 21st century. In 1984, he founded the Texas Research and Technology Foundation which began development of the Texas Research Park—TRP—the core of biotechnology for San Antonio. In the early 1990s, General McDermott also led a group of local investors to buy the San Antonio Spurs to assure it would stay in San Antonio. To coach the Spurs, he selected Air Force Academy graduate Gregg Popovich who led the team to win three NBA championships.

For General McDermott's wide-ranging efforts on behalf of San Antonio, the city of San Antonio named a section of Interstate Highway 10 West as the "Robert F. McDermott Freeway." He also received recognition for his business and educational activities, including an elementary school named for him, induction into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 1987 and the American National Business Hall of Fame in 1989; the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award from West Point in 1993; the recipient of Harvard Business School's Alumni Achievement Award in 1998; and most recently, the

University of the Incarnate Word established the Robert F. McDermott Professorship in Organizational Leadership this year.

Today I honor the passing of a great family man, a terrific friend, and an outstanding community leader.●

NATIONAL MINE RESCUE COMPETITION

• Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am pleased today to report some good news with regard to mine safety and to congratulate FMC Corporation's White Team for being the best mine rescue team in the Nation. As we all know, the mining community experienced a profound loss this year with the disasters at the Sago and Aracoma coal mines in West Virginia and at the Darby Mine in Kentucky. The tragic loss of life in these accidents served to reaffirm the commitment of all those involved in the industry to ensuring and improving the safety and welfare of our Nation's miners.

Essential to that effort, and emblematic of our commitment, was the passage of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response, MINER, Act of 2006. The MINER Act passed this body unanimously. It was then signed into law by President Bush and implemented by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, MSHA.

As the primary sponsor of the MINER Act, I am confident that this new law will improve the safety of our underground mines and reduce the likelihood of similar tragic accidents in the future. In the careful and deliberate process of developing the MINER Act, the views of all stakeholders were solicited and carefully considered. Although in many areas there were differences of opinion, all those involved in the issue of mine safety were in agreement on the critical role played by mine rescue teams and universal in their praise of the dedicated individuals who serve on them.

Rescue teams represent the very finest traditions of the mining community. Composed of volunteers, highly trained and experienced, these teams stand ready to come to the aid of their fellow miners in the most critical and dangerous of situations. The MINER Act explicitly recognizes the essential role of mine rescue teams and the importance of their training and support.

Part of the training and the tradition of mine rescue teams is their participation in competitions that pit the teams against each other. Each year MSHA holds a national mine rescue competition that draws teams from throughout the United States. This year, the metal, nonmetal mine competition was held in Reno, NV. I am particularly pleased to report four teams from southwestern Wyoming placed in the top six spots in a field of 34 teams from across the Nation.

The FMC Corporation White Team, which was led by Leroy Hutchinson, won the competition. The White Team

was followed by the FMC Red Team, led by Bob Knot. OCI Chemical's Blue Team, which was led by Gary Ruiz, placed fifth, and Solvay's Silver Team, which was led by Shawn Marshall, placed sixth.

These teams represent the best of southwest Wyoming's soda ash industry. The four companies that mine the mineral Trona in Wyoming account for 90 percent of the U.S. production of soda ash. Soda ash is a commodity required for the production of glass. It is also a very important export that accounts for \$500 million of our balance of trade.

I am very proud of this year's showing by our Wyoming soda ash industry in this competition. It is important to remember that although this is a competition, it is not a sport. The National Mine Safety Rescue Contest and other mine safety rescue contests are training events. They help prepare mine rescue teams so they are ready to act if they are ever called to deal with a situation that we hope will never occur.

When accidents happen, miners count on volunteer mine rescue teams to save them. Those mine rescue teams need to have the best resources available to them and the training they will need to be prepared for anything that may happen as they take on that important job. Mine rescue competitions play an important role in that effort by providing mine rescue teams with the kind of experience they will need if they are to perform at the highest level of efficiency in the event there is an emergency. They offer a chance for teams to improve their communication skills, to consider previously unforeseen problems, and to get feedback on their performance from contest judges.

Although these teams compete against each other in mine rescue contests, when a real world situation arises, they operate as one cohesive unit to affect a rescue. Each company can draw on the good will and collective expertise of the mine rescue teams to help bring miners in danger to safety. In the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, the teams know that if there is a mine emergency, they will have the support they will need to bring the victims of the accident and their fellow rescue workers out of the mine and home to their families and loved ones.

In other words, while these companies compete in the marketplace and mine rescue teams compete in these contests, they will stand shoulder to shoulder should an accident occur at the mine.

I would like to include the names of each of the participants of our teams in southwest Wyoming who competed in the national mine rescue competition. Although I particularly want to congratulate the FMC White Team, the FMC Red Team, OCI Chemical's Blue Team, and Solvay's Silver Team, I congratulate and thank all those who participated. Your efforts continue to make a difference by making our mines

a safer place for all our Nation's miners to work.

The information follows.

FMC White Team: Leroy Hutchinson (Captain) (Benchman), Tony Herrera, Alan Jones (Gas), Robert Byers, Brad Roll, Bronson Berg, Vern Plantenberg, Mike Padilla (Team Trainer).

FMC White First Aid: Robert Byers, Bronson Berg, Vern Plantenberg.

FMC Red Team: Bob Knott (Captain), Mark Anderson, Rick Owens (Gas), Robert Pope, Bill Madura, Daniel Hellickson, Rod Knight (Benchman), Mike Padilla (Team Trainer), Dave Hutchinson (Team Trainer), Rick Steenberg (Official in Charge), Robert Pope, Mark Anderson, Bill Madura.

FMC Red First Aid: Robert Pope, Mark Anderson, Bill Madura.

General Chemical Blue: Jeff Downey (Captain), Doug Cox (Gas), Steve McKeehan, Mickey Smith, Willie Cederburg, Stan Owens, Terry Hansen, Leslie Wareham (Benchman), Keith Mullins (Team Trainer), David Graham (Official in Charge), Mickey Smith, Terry Hansen, Steve McKeehan.

General Chemical Blue First Aid: Mickey Smith, Terry Hansen, Steve McKeehan.

General Chemical Black: Alan Brewer (Captain), Byron Willingham, Lucas Coon (Gas), Curtiss Cooley, Jr., Steve Roberts, Tommy Graham, Ken Ball, Charles Beard (Benchman), John E. Sykes (Team Trainer), David Graham (Official in Charge), Steve McKeehan.

General Chemical Black First Aid: Byron Willingham, Steve Roberts, Curtiss Cooley, Jr.

OCI White Team: Jack J. Volsey II (Captain), Chuck Jones, Paul Larson (Gas), Ted Laughlin, Scott Counts, Kyle Butcher, Willy Moore (Benchman), Nathan Kendall, Matt Cummings (Team Trainer), Rick Terry (Team Trainer), Tim Musbach (Official in Charge).

OCI White First Aid: Chuck Jones, Ted Laughlin, Nathan Kendall.

OCI Blue Team: Gary Ruiz (Captain), Bill Mehle (Gas), Brent Skorcz, Blake Barney, Dennie Hughes (Benchman), Don O'Lexey, Richard Clark, Tyler Lovato, Rick Terry (Team Trainer), Matt Cummings (Team Trainer), Tim Musbach (Official in Charge).

OCI Blue First Aid: Blake Barney, Don O'Lexey, Dennie Hughes.

Solvay Silver Team: Shawn Marshall (Captain), Joe Thompson, Bob Clement, Scott Brown (Benchman), Gerald Maxfield (Gas), Brian Liscomb, Ryan Hansen, Dusty Martin, Jeff Tetmore (Team Trainer), John Angwin (Official in Charge).

Solvay Silver First Aid Team: Shawn Marshall, Joe Thompson, Dusty Martin.

Solvay Blue Team: Joe McDonald (Captain), Chad Rawlins (Gas), Kent Boman, Jamie McGillis, Jerry Huntington, Brian Quick, Jody Burgener, Dennis Hughes (Benchman), David Stevenson (Team Trainer), John Angwin (Official in Charge).

Solvay Blue First Aid Team: Joe McDonald, Kent Boman, Jamie McGillis.●

CREATIVE PLANTERS GARDEN CLUB

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I acknowledge the Creative Planters Garden Club of Louisiana. After the catastrophic destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, this organization has dedicated itself to rebuilding the horticulture in Louisiana, and I would like to take a few moments to highlight their efforts.

Unfortunately, like many other citizens in south Louisiana, several mem-

bers of this organization lost their homes to the hurricanes that ravished our State in 2005. While many members of the Creative Planters Garden Club are rebuilding their livelihoods, they are also volunteering their time to rebuild their State. Their priorities include replacing landscape projects devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and replanting the rose garden in New Orleans Botanical Gardens in City Park. It is community involvement like this that enriches our State.

For more than 23 years the Creative Planters Garden Club has worked to enhance Louisiana communities by promoting civic stewardship and horticulture education. They have worked in conjunction with many State and local government agencies to teach and encourage gardening to children.

I applaud the members of the Creative Planters Garden Club of Louisiana for their continued service to the citizens of their community.●

REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL K. LOOSE

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Michael K. Loose for his exceptional achievement as Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Chief of Civil Engineers, from October 2003 to October 2006.

As Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC, Rear Admiral Loose led 17,000 civilian and military employees, executing an annual workload of \$10.6 billion supporting global contingency engineering operations, the Navy shore infrastructure, and systems command engineering and acquisition support. As the chief of civil engineers, he led Active and Reserve components of the Civil Engineer Corps community of over 2,000 officers and the enlisted Seabee community of over 20,000 sailors that jointly serve as the Navy's contingency and facilities engineering experts and comprise the Naval Construction Force of 22 battalions, 4 regiments, and other supporting units.

Upon assuming command of NAVFAC, Rear Admiral Loose quickly developed an overarching strategic plan that incorporated Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Chief of Naval Operations guiding principles. Building on this foundational document, and acutely focused on the critical imperative to dramatically reduce costs to support Sea Enterprise fleet recapitalization, improve service to joint/fleet operational commands, and align and single-up accountability, Rear Admiral Loose boldly conceptualized and implemented a dramatic restructuring and transformation of all components of NAVFAC—the most comprehensive and fundamental reorganization of the command since the Navy revamped the Bureau system more than three decades ago. As a direct result of his initiative and vision,